

Town Manager's Report - Week of: 10/20/2017



Town Manager's Office:

- The divers from Waterworks Diving Services completed their repairs of the Seabright Dam last week. While the repairs made were successful in stopping the leak and are responsible for raising water levels on the river upstream from the dam, more permanent repairs will still need to be made. The reason for this is that the divers found the sill they were planning to attach an L bracket to in order to make a permanent repair was too deteriorated to support the bracket. Therefore, when considering our FY 19 budget in addition to funding repairs to the gate at Seabright Dam we'll also need to consider options for a permanent fix to the sill under the power station. Now that we have a clearer understanding of what the problems are we now have more certainty about what can be done to repair these problems in the long term.

Anyone downstream from the Seabright Dam will have noticed that the river level dropped incredibly low last Friday (10/13). The cause of this was the dam gate getting clogged with plant debris, which cut off flow from the lower gate. Once the debris was cleared flow through this gate was increased to restore the river to normal levels.

- We have been receiving a lot of questions from residents concerned about the earthworks on Hosmer Pond Road. I wanted to provide some facts about this project in an attempt to clarify any misunderstandings. On July 27th the Planning Board approved a Site Plan for Mike Geisler to build a 2,3895' private road off Hosmer Pond Road. Of note: Mr. Geisler purchased the site after it was recently subject to a heavy timber harvest that caused erosion and run-off problems for neighbors.
 - The road project required PB review for >10,000SF of grading
 - The project requires blasting: The blasting on the lower portion of the road is finished – work to the upper portion of road and blasting for that will begin next Spring.
 - The blasting product is being crushed and stockpiled on site.
 - Crushing should be finished by the end of next week.
 - The crushed stone is now being stockpiled until they are ready to begin building the lower portion of the road. That area is shown on the plan as a “Yard Area” and it is at the very bottom of the road.
 - There is a Materials Borrow Area where they will take ledge to crush for the road bed. That area is also toward the bottom of the road. Both these areas are probably visible from the road.
 - Mike Geisler is not removing any materials from the site – the stockpile will start being reduced as they begin to construct the road bed in the near future.
 - Mr. Geisler is very approachable – we could offer to pass questions along to him if you want.

- I met with the Personnel Board on Monday to work on finalizing the Personnel Policy, which has been in development since 2011. The Board was very thoughtful in their job of considering multiple perspectives on policy that impacts town employees. I appreciate the Board's patience in catching me up on how certain sections of this policy have evolved over the years. We have scheduled a meeting for November 6th at 8am, where I am confident we will have this policy finalized so it can be sent to the Select Board for adoption.
- The Finance Director, Jodi Hanson, and I have begun getting organized to start preparing the long term capital improvement plan and FY19 budget. Jodi put together a debt schedule and template for capital projects and equipment to help us start this process. Once we have a format in place we'll start gathering projects, estimated costs and timeframes from Department Heads. The next step will be bringing this information to the Select Board to provide input. We are also in the beginning stages of preparing the FY19 Budget.

Wastewater Department

- The Wastewater Department hosted a workshop and tour of the wastewater plant for the Camden and Rockport select boards to go over future plant upgrades. Operation of the wastewater plant began in 1970 and there are numerous pieces of original equipment that are now at the end of their useful life, and spare parts for this equipment are no longer available. An engineering evaluation of the plant is the first step in developing an upgrade project, and this evaluation was carried out in 2016. Wright Pierce Engineering, the Wastewater Department's engineering firm will also be available to discuss the plant upgrade evaluation in a second workshop with both select boards in November.
- The Wastewater Department operates seven pump stations that convey wastewater to the plant. Five of these stations have been upgraded recently, leaving two pump stations that are in need of upgrades. An engineering evaluation was carried out on these two pump stations in 2015.
- A wastewater plant and pump station upgrade project would take considerable time to plan and implement. Once approved by the citizens of Camden, engineering and planning would take a year to complete. Actual construction would take place over a two year period, therefore the entire process would take three years, start to finish.

Public Works Department

- Last week we installed snow plows and sanders on some trucks for the upcoming winter season. Throughout the summer we do preventive maintenance and repairs to snow removal equipment preparing them for winter.
- We painted new 55 gallon drums with a darker green color and purchased new dome top lids to replace old worn out containers for downtown winter trash containers to try to keep the town looking somewhat presentable through the winter.

- Also last week crews spent a couple days cleaning up large limbs and debris from the rain and wind over the past weekend; also, we have scheduled removal of a couple hazard trees by private contractors.
- Public Works is taking advantage of the nice weather this week by renting a boom lift to prune low hanging limbs, dead limbs and brush along roads.
- We are winding down on roadside maintenance and helping Snow Bowl and Wastewater Department with projects needing the Towns backhoe/loader.
- We worked with the Harbor Master with seasonal float removal at the Harbor.
- By the end of this month we will be removing the floats at the boat ramps on Megunticook Lake as well as seasonal change of trash containers downtown from summer to winter containers.
- We continue to prep trucks and equipment for winter snow removal and winterizing equipment for winter storage.

Police Department

The following Camden Police Department statistics are from Police department files for the period of October 8 through 14, 2017.

- There were 122 complaints received
 - a. Patrol / Property checks completed
 - b. Speed checks at CR Middle School, Washington, Mechanic, and High Streets as well as Turnpike Drive
 - c. Various fraud complaints with one being an active case
- All officers and administrative staff have completed all 2017 mandatory education through Justice Planning and Management Associates, JPMA. Members of command staff completed this training by attending in class education at another Police Department in Maine.
- Two Officers attending ongoing education on Interview & Interrogations
- Parking enforcement continues with Mark conducting rounds as required. **NOTE:** The decision to stop enforcement at the Public Landing will have to be made to facilitate parking needs of the upcoming POPTECH conference beginning on October 19th, 2017.
- Bi-annual range day upcoming for officer qualifications
- National Incident Based Reporting System, NIBRS, education attended by Jeff for monthly crime reporting to the state.
- ACO recurring training upcoming on Oct 25th, Jeff and Mark to attend.
- Good Morning Camden program is being implemented to include Rockport residents. News releases being done with Village Soup and Pen Bay Pilot news papers and on Camden PD Face book page. Department will attend programs for seniors to spread the word as well.
- Department will participate in the National Drug Take Back day on October 28th at the PD.

Fire Department

- The Camden Fire Department has been involved in the following public education activities over the past month:
 - The Fire Department visited the Children's House Montessori School and Peopleplace this past week for fire prevention week activities. They showed the students their gear, equipment and talked about important fire safety tips. Also during this week groups from the Camden Public Library visited the fire station for similar events.
 - The Fire Department visited Camden Hills Regional High School for their homecoming festivities. They set up the Ladder, handed out public education materials and assisted in cooking for the event. They will also be heading back to the High School to set up recruitment tables at lunches, show our physical agility course to gym classes and perform weekly safety tips on the announcements. The Fire Department has also been working with VStv on weekly safety tips for their morning reports.
 - The Fire Department is in the process of creating fire prevention artwork with middle school students at Camden-Rockport Middle School. They presented a project where students create these pieces of fire prevention artwork and a few get selected to display on Engine 4. Submissions will end on October 25th, and later that day two will get picked to replace last year's submissions on the truck.
 - On October 14th many people visited the Fire Station and other festivities for fall family fun day. The Fire Department showed gear, apparatus and equipment while also performing various demos of their work.

Community Development

- The Downtown Economic Vitality Team hosted a successful Fall Family Fun Day on October 14th at the parking lot near the Public Safety building. The event was part of Camden's Second Saturday program with the purpose of getting our residents out to enjoy their downtown, to shop local year-round, and to foster community. We had about 120 families attend. The event was put on by volunteers from local businesses in association with the Community Development Director. The Public Safety Department, participating as part of Fire Prevention Week, helped make this event successful. Children could climb on fire engines, play fire-related games like rolling a hose, and could test the siren and lights of a police cruiser. Carriage rides and bouncy houses were popular, as was "Plinko", a game led by employees of Camden National Bank. Family Fun Day experienced social media exposure as parents circulated pictures of their families while the event was underway.
- We are launching a survey of space usage for downtown buildings to determine % of business vs. residential use and to take an inventory of empty, rentable space. The link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8NPNTHL>
- We are also taking an inventory of Camden's current broadband fiber coverage. This will be reviewed at the upcoming CEDAC meeting on October 30th.

- Attendance is looking promising for the first “Connect Over Coffee” business meeting to be held at Maine Sport on November 1st (8am). This year-round program open house program is aimed at connecting and strengthening our business community. Because this is a free (sponsored) program with no membership fee, we anticipate that it will attract owners who have not joined the Camden Area Business Group (which charges a \$200 annual membership fee).
- During the process of distributing invitations to Connect Over Coffee, dozens of local business owners and managers reinforced how this summer and fall have been successful economically, with September coming in substantially above average.
- On Thursday, PopTech guests as well as visitors from the 3000-passenger cruise ship that had moored in Rockland filled Camden’s downtown. The cruise ships send buses from the Rockland Public Landing to downtown Camden, as well as to other area attractions.

Opera House

- The Opera House had an extremely busy summer and fall – due to both increased bookings and staff shortages. New staff include Karina Shorten, OH Admin. Assistant and Box Office Manager; Cory Raymond, Custodian and Libby Schrum and Beth O’Connor, Event Managers. Training is ongoing.
- Summer highlights are Comedian Caroline Rhea, a concert by a hot Latino group Las Cafeteras, and the annual Beatles Experience. Also Peter Yarrow Windjammer Festival weekend.
- Camden International Film Festival in September the OH had largest audiences ever experience, and the program was termed particularly engaging.
- Coastal Mountains Land Trust fundraiser, Our Mtn Voices was a big success, followed by a workshopped dance performance, Wax Wings, which garnered standing ovations at each performance and requests for it to travel as far as San Antonio, TX.
- Vitaly, the first mentalist illusionist was here last Saturday. We had almost 300 very happy, engaged attendees who were amazed. Vitaly was funny, charming and extremely talented – totally wowed us with his illusions. Maine Coast Skaters hosted Bob Marley’s show this year as a fundraiser.
- Just announced for December is Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy with A Celtic Family Christmas.
- It felt like the entire community came out for a documentary called The Shepards of the Glaciers, a documentary on a sole woman shepardess in India. The director was present and it everyone who attended felt a part of both India and Camden and came out inspired and illuminated.
- Sultans of String, 3X Juno award winners in Canada had fantastic artistry; we were disappointed in the attendance – was just north of 100. It seemed that both the Strand and OH this year struggled for audiences that evening.
- Poptech has just begun, and has a full house. Program as always is excellent. Interesting to have the BioBus parked in front of the village green along with cruise ship buses coming in to their spaces right behind it – several each day of Poptech. So our town will feel very full and dynamic this week.
- Coming up in November is a return concert by acclaimed folk singer/songwriter Jonathan Edwards, Elections, Pecha Kucha, ClIFF Selects and a fundraising Ski Film for Ragged Mountain.
- Huge kudos to Dave Morrison who helped us get through a heavy schedule of summer shows when we were short staffed, and equally busy event filled fall which included Film Fest and Poptech with

the corresponding huge facility and technical demands required of those, with a smile, grace and good cheer.

- And welcome to new OH Committee member Peter Dembski, a renowned jazz pianist who lives in Camden and has immediately had a positive impact and consul on the committee.